

## Lawyer, city officials react to verdict acquitting former Plainview, NE city clerk

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By Matt Breen

PLAINVIEW, Neb. (KTIV) -

A former clerk for the City of Plainview, Nebraska, was found not guilty Wednesday on felony theft charges.

Carolyn Jacobsen had been accused of stealing nearly \$3,000 dollars in cash from the Plainview offices, and transferring money into closed accounts to cover the difference.

During the trial, Jacobsen's attorney [David Domina](#) argued that there were irregularities in the City of Plainview's finances. "As the evidence developed it became clear that there was no quality evidence of an actual loss," Domina said. "Instead, there was proof of a history of difficulties tracing funds from computer program to computer program and from account to account."

We spoke to Plainview City Administrator Michael Holton about some of the evidence that was presented during the trial about the city's accounting practices. "Some of the things that were mentioned in the trial were the inability to look at the audits and read them," Holton said. "Of course, the CPA's [Certified Public Accountant] the auditors that put them together were able to explain a lot of the methods. There weren't as many inaccuracies as there was the inability to look at the audit and see it the way a CPA would see it."

Holton said that the city has been given a clean bill of health from the third party auditors for the past four years, and city staff have taken all steps advised by the auditors to better city accounting practices.